



JIM MCGOVERN & ASSOCIATES

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January 3, 1975

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Ogc 75-0059  
Olc 75-0027

Mr. Angus MacLean Thuermer  
Assistant to the Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D. C. 20505

My dear Mr. Angus MacLean Thuermer:

After reading your answer to my query about CIA involvement with the British in Northern Ireland (received almost 2 months later) I understand why the CIA is in trouble and why it is likely to get worse for you people.

In the first place, I didn't write you, I wrote Colby. Is his arm in a sling so that he can't sign his own letters? Or is he too much of a big shot to answer the little people?

Now pray tell me, what unconstitutional law is it that permits the CIA to escape accountability to the U.S. citizenry about activities the CIA undertakes under their name?

This past two years has seen the U.S. Republic damned near wrecked because certain highly placed government officials fancied themselves above the law. A jury in Washington, D. C. yesterday decided that they weren't above the law--and that might be what may happen to some of you people if you insist on your grandiloquent officiousness.

You say it is your "tradition" not to comment on queries like mine. I've got news for you, fellow. It may be your tradition, but it is not the tradition of this Republic. It is, in fact, subversive of the traditions of this Republic and I hope that in your position that irony does not escape you. It is bureaucratic and self-serving "traditions" like yours that have messed this country up and caused monumental disbelief in our government.

Further, your statement about not commenting one way or another on my query is ludicrous when sitting before me is a letter stating that your CIA operatives did comment on the matter to Congressman Albert Quie. Another letter before me from the State Department did comment on the matter. And another letter from the White House did comment.

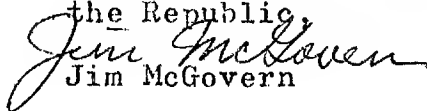
What startles me is that when all these people including those from your agency did comment and denied CIA involvement in Northern Ireland--why is it that you do not deny it?

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I suspect I know why you don't. Because it would amount to a perjured statement. They can plead ignorance or anonymity. You can't.

Please don't send any more silly letters like your last. Truthfulness is the best policy in the long run, you know. And if the British have been coercing you into positions that get you into a lot of trouble, it's time you found that out. At any rate, from the tone of your letter, it's obvious that only a Congressional investigation will get to the bottom of the matter. It's too bad it had to get to that point.

Yours for the Continuation of  
the Republic,

  
Jim McGovern

P.S. You also are going to have to account for the CIA not only permitting but working with the Illegal British Espionage Apparatus operating in this country to spy on U.S. citizens. Whose side are you on anyway?

P.S.2 If you haven't already investigated me, send somebody around. I'll tell them all they want or need to know and it will save time and tax dollars.

CC: Congressman Albert Quie  
Senator Walter Mondale  
Congressman Joseph Karth  
Congressman Donald Fraser  
Congressman Bill Frenzel  
Max L. Friedersdorf  
Linwood Holton